

Transcript of Reagan's Address to the U.N. General Assembly

Following is a transcript of President Reagan's address to the United Nations General Assembly yesterday, as recorded by The New York Times.

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished heads of state, ministers, representatives and guests:

First of all, I wish to congratulate President Lucas on his election as President of the General Assembly. I wish you every success, Mr. President, in carrying out the responsibilities of your high office.

It is an honor to be here, and I thank you for your gracious invitation.

I would speak in support of the two great goals that led to the creation of this organization — the cause of peace and the cause of human dignity.

The responsibility of this Assembly, the peaceful resolution of disputes between peoples, can be discharged successfully only if we recognize the great common ground upon which we all stand.

Our fellowship is that of the human race, our oneness as inhabitants of this planet, our place as representatives of billions of our countrymen whose fondest hope remains the end to war and the replacement of violence by justice. This is the important central reality that binds us, that permits us to dream of a future without the antagonisms of the past.

For How Much Is Right?

And just as shadows can be seen only where there is light, so too can we everywhere see the truth that if we remember how much is right, we will resolve what divides us only if we remember how much more unite us.

This chamber has heard and told the stories of men and dangers abroad. Today let us dare to speak of a future that is bright and hopeful and can be ours only if we seek it. I believe that there is far more than most of us would like to hope.

At the start of this decade, one scholar at the Hudson Institute noted that mankind had also undergone enormous changes for the better in the past two decades: changes which, at least as was then known, had not been readily noticed or written about.

"Up until 200 years ago, there were relatively few people in the world," he wrote. "All human societies were poor; disease and early death dominated most people's lives. People were ignorant, and largely at the mercy of the forces of nature."

He said: "we are now in a position where near the middle of a process of economic development. At the end of that process, almost everyone will live in a comfortable post as the richest country of the past. There will be many more people living long healthy lives with immense knowledge and more to learn than anyone has ever done for them. We are able to cope with the forces of nature, and almost indefinitely."

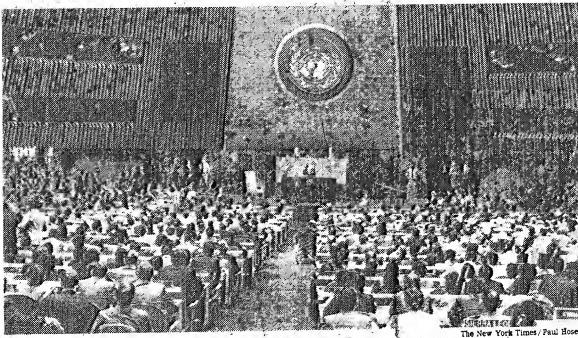
For Peace and Dignity

Well, we do live today as the scholar suggested — in the middle of one of the most important and dramatic periods of human history, one in which all of us can serve as catalysts for an era of world peace and unimaginable human freedom and dignity.

And today I would like to report to you, as distinguished and influential members of the world community, on what the United States has been attempting to help move the world closer to this era.

On many fronts enormous progress

Objectives of U.S. Policy



Delegates listening yesterday as President Reagan addressed session of the United Nations General Assembly.

has been made. And I think our efforts are complemented by the trend of history. If we look closely enough, I believe we can see all the world moving toward a deeper appreciation of the value of human freedom in both its political and economic manifestations.

This is particularly motivated by a worldwide desire for economic growth and higher standards of living. And there's an increasing realization that economic freedom is a prelude to economic progress and growth, and that economic integration is linked to political freedom.

Everywhere people and governments are beginning to recognize that the secret of a progressive society is not the strength of its military, but the strength of its spirit, to encourage innovation and individual enterprise, to reward hard work and reduce barriers to the free flow of trade and information.

Trade and Freedom

Our opposition to economic restrictions and trade barriers is consistent with our view of economic freedom and human progress. We believe such barriers pose a particularly dangerous threat to the prospects of conflict at both the global and regional levels.

We've always sought to lend a hand to others. From our relief efforts to help others from the menace of conflict on a worldwide scale and discuss the status of negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, the first time we faced the critical problem of regional conflicts, for history displays tragic evidence that it is this conflict which can set off the sparks leading to world war.

Today we must continue to share in world prosperity through expanded export markets.

Tomorrow at the International Monetary Fund, I will address this question more fully, including America's desire for more open trading markets throughout the world.

This desire to cut down on barriers to the free flow of goods as the engine of human progress are two of the most important ways the United States and the American people hope to assist in bringing about world peace.

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By that I mean, first, how we've strengthened ties with old allies and new friends. Second, what we're attempting to further freedom is to expand democracy.

Let me add that the United States considers it a moral imperative that South Africa's racial policies evolve peacefully, and that the United States is committed to the dismantling of the system compatible with basic norms of justice, liberty and human dignity.

I'm pleased that American companies in South Africa, by providing opportunities for employment and contributing to the economic advancement of the black population, but clearly much more must be done.

In Central America, the United States is working to restore regional peace and security. We have committed substantial resources to promote economic development and democracy. The growing success of democracy in El Salvador is the best proof that the key to peace lies in a political solution.

Appointed to Nicaragua

Fires elections brought into office a government dedicated to democracy, economic opportunity and regional peace. Regrettably, there are forces in the region eager to thwart democratic change. But these forces are now being defeated, and the tide is turning in the direction of freedom.

We call upon Nicaragua in particular to abandon its policies of subversion and militarism and to carry out the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Call upon the United States to establish democracy at home.

The Middle East has known more than its share of tragedy and conflict between Israel and all of the Arab neighbors in a manner that assures security for all in the region, the recognition of Israel as a solution to the Iranian problem.

In every part of the world, the United States is similarly engaged in peace diplomacy as an active player for a strong and stable international order. We have backed the efforts of ASEAN to mobilize international support for peaceful resolution of the Cambodian problem, which includes the return of Cambodians to their homes and the election of a representative government. ASEAN's success in promoting economic and political development has made a major contribution to the peace and stability of the region.

In Afghanistan, the dedicated efforts of the Secretary General and his representative, the Special Envoy, have shown our strong support. I assure you that the United States will continue to do everything possible to negotiate a durable peace.

We consider ourselves a full participant in the quest for peace in the Middle East. The last year since October was shown that much can be achieved through negotiations. It also shows that the road is long and hard.

Two years ago, I proposed a fresh start to the search for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. My initiative of Sept. 1, 1982, contains a set of positions that can serve as a basis for a just and lasting peace.

We're ready to be the friend of any country that is a friend to us and a friend of peace. And we respect genuine nonalignment.

Principle of Universality

Our own name has been born in revolution and helped promote the process of decolonization that brought about the independence of so many members of this body. And we're proud of that history.

We're proud, too, of our role in the formation of the United Nations and our support of this body over the years. Let me again emphasize our continuing commitment to the principles of the United Nations system, the principle of universality, both here and in the United Nations technical agencies around the world.

The starting point and cornerstone of our foreign policy is our alliance

negotiations with the Soviet Union.

We recognize that there is no single answer to the problems of arms control and other issues between our two nations, which have the capacity to destroy civilization as we know it.

I believe this is a new way of

viewing our obligations to each other,

and by the Soviet Union itself. And I want to speak to you today on what the United States and the Soviet Union can accomplish together in the coming years and the concrete steps

that we need to take.

You know, as I stand here and look out from this podium, I see the seat of the representative from the Soviet Union. And not far from that seat, just over to the side, is the seat of the representative from the United States. In this town, in this city, it's clear that there's not a great distance between us. Outside this room, while they will still be clear differences, there's every reason why they should not be distant. And that's why we're here. Isn't that what this organization is all about?

Last Jan. 16, I set out three objectives for our work with the Soviet Union over the months ahead. First, I said, we need to find ways to reduce and eventually to eliminate the threat and danger of nuclear weapons to all.

Second, we must settle all

disputes. Our concern over the potential for nuclear war cannot distract us from the terrible human tragedies occurring every day in the regional conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Third, we must have a particular responsibility to contribute to political solutions to these problems rather than to exacerbate them through the provision of even more weapons.

I propose that our two countries agree to embark on periodic consultations at policy level about regional issues. This will be primarily for senior experts available at regular intervals for in-depth exchanges of views. I've asked Secretary Shultz to explore this with Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

Forces of influence are a thing of the past. Differences between American and Soviet interests are not. The objectives of this political dialogue will be to prevent the Soviet Union from intervening in the affairs of the United States and the Soviet Union have achieved agreements of historic importance on some regional issue.

The Austrian state treaty and the Berlin accord are notable and lasting examples.

Let us resolve to achieve similar agreements in the future.

Our second task must be to find ways to reduce the vast stockpiles of armaments in the world. And I am committed to redoubling our negotiations to achieve real results.

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